



# PSC NEWS

## Missouri Public Service Commission

---

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 900

FY-04-184

---

### MEDIA REMINDER

#### PSC TO HOLD LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING IN JOPLIN

Jefferson City (April 22, 2004)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold a local public hearing in **Joplin on Tuesday, April 27, 2004**, to receive customer comment on a natural gas rate case filed by Missouri Gas Energy. The Commission will conduct the local public hearing through a video-conference link with the Commission's office in Jefferson City and Commissioners will take part in the local public hearing by video-conference.

The local public hearing schedule appears below:

**Joplin**  
**April 27, 2004**  
6:00 pm\*

Matthews Hall Auditorium  
Missouri Southern State College  
3950 East Newman Road

**NOTE: \*The PSC Staff will conduct a general information session starting at this time to answer any questions customers may have. The information session will be followed by the local public hearing.**

Local public hearings give customers of the Company an opportunity to comment on the rate proposal currently before the Public Service Commission. In addition, customers can bring any service related problems to the attention of the Commission.

On November 4, 2003, Missouri Gas Energy filed a natural gas rate case with the Missouri Public Service Commission seeking to increase annual natural gas revenues by approximately \$44.8 million. The Company stated in its press release announcing the rate filing that the proposed increase for residential customers would be approximately \$6.50 a month.

This rate case reflects what are called the non-gas costs of providing service to customers. Non-gas costs are generally operating and maintenance expenses and a return on investment in plant (such as natural gas mains and service lines that carry natural gas to the customer's home or business). The Missouri Public Service Commission does not regulate gas costs or rates that are charged to Missouri Gas Energy for natural gas by wholesale suppliers. The Commission does perform a regulatory review to ensure that regulated natural gas companies such as Missouri Gas Energy make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Missouri Gas Energy serves approximately 499,800 natural gas customers in western Missouri.

---0---